

Attachment B

Dave Humphrey
Director of External Affairs
Maryland Department of General Services
301 West Preston Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-2305
05.30.08

RE: Public Information Act Request

Dear Mr. Humphrey:

We are writing in response to your letter of 05.08.08 in which you set out charges in the amount of \$1800.00 to respond to the Public Information Act Request submitted by the Move the Courthouse community group in Rockville. Move the Courthouse is an ad hoc group of citizens with widespread support in Rockville for its ardent opposition to a proposed project by the Department of General Services. Due to the number of unresolved issues and questions and in the spirit of open government and transparency, the citizens requested release of documents from General Services and other agencies related to this project. Unfortunately, as an ad hoc group, Move the Courthouse is not in a position to incur an expense of \$1800.00 for the release of such documents. Such a cost is an onerous burden on ordinary citizens simply seeking the records of a controversial project, and would have a chilling effect on the public's right to know.

Accordingly, for the following reasons, we respectfully request that, pursuant to sec. 10-621 of the State Government Article, you waive the fee for this document request:

1. In light of the public controversy generated for a number of years by this project, a waiver of fees for this particular document request is in the public interest;
2. Validating that state and local requirements and processes were satisfied in the development of this project is in the public interest;
3. Move the Courthouse cannot absorb the fee, the amount of which is a great deterrent to ordinary citizens' desire for full disclosure and transparency with respect to this project;
4. The documents requested do not commercially benefit Move the Courthouse or any of the citizens supporting this request; and
5. The Mayor and Members of the City Council of Rockville have expressed their

support for a waiver of the fee in this situation.

Thank you for your attention in this matter. We and our fellow citizens look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Bridget Newton

Frank Anastasi

Cc: Julie A. Hallam, Assistant Attorney General
Turhan Robinson, Deputy Council, Department of General Services
Mayor and Council, City of Rockville